Boston, (Massachusetts) Feb. 4. 1851.

Mr. Sargent Jan 1851

My dear Miss Carpenter,

The sending of our Annual Box (of Liberty Bells, Annual Reports, &c) enables me to write, - or rather gives me an opportunity of sending you a few recent pamphlets, with which I will also write you a few lines. In the midst of the bustle of the Antislavery office - (more than usual today, as George Thompson, Miss Anne & Deborah Weston, and others are engaged in writing & making up parcels for the box, & stopping oft to converse with those who come in), I know not what sort of a letter I shall be able to make out. - I suppose that Mrs. Thomas has received a letter which I wrote to her several weeks since, giving her some account of the Fair and its results. You will see, from that, that your Bristol donations came in admirable order, and in good season. The Bristol boxes are models of good packing, - such packing as I have never seen before, unless I except a box of nice millinery which came to us from Paris 2 years ago, & which was very ingeniously contrived to protect the ladies' caps from the least pressure. I suppose that packing is an art with you, in Bristol; so I should be led to think from your boxes to our Fair, of which the box which contains the

"May Fair" last year was a notable example. – I was pleased to receive from you, by your box of Goods, a note, with a copy of the new edition of the "Meditations" &c. That part of your note, which related to the making a contribution of your Ragged School children, I gave to Miss Weston, and you will see that she has incorporated it into her report of the Bazaar. – I have conferred with Crosby & Nichols as to publishing a cheaper edition of the book – and they make this statement:– The book has a steady sale; it is much valued by a certain class of people, (the people I mean who relish & read books of that kind), and is a book which ought to be kept in print; and which, they say, we mean to keep in print. An edition of 1000 was printed; about 300 copies of that edition remain. The price at which it is sold (62½ cts.) has not enabled them to make much profit upon it; especially as, when bought for distribution, they sell it at 45 cents; [this certainly is very low for a book so well got up] – they would therefore not like to publish a cheaper edition at present. – The foregoing is their statement. I hope eventually that they will pay (and I think they will) a small percentage from the avails of the book, which shall await your directions, whenever it does come.

I do not regret, upon the whole, the little pas between* Dr. Hall and myself, with relation to what occurred

* [Rev. Dr. Edward B. Hall, Providence, R.I. – S.H.]

at Bristol. I am sorry for the annoyance which you have felt; but I think that Mr. Hall could not have spoken, with the entire discretion & candour which usually characterize him, if I may judge from the impression left on Mr. Armstrong's mind. And I know, from his own letter to me, that he was under decidedly erroneous impressions in respect to the Antislavery Sunday meetings. And I am therefore glad that the opportunity was presented of stating to him, & so to others whom we might not otherwise reach, the truth on the subject. I do not think the affair has hurt him at all; but the contrary. And I am most happy to believe that he designed no harm to our Antislavery Fair. — Moreover, — and you will sympathize with me in this — Mr. Quincy was remorselessly following me up for an article for the Liberty Bell, at a time when I was very much engaged and could not sit down leisurely to write one — and you cannot think how greatly relieved I was, when it came across me that I would make some extracts from my letter to Dr. Hall (omitting everything that would identify ~~him~~ individuals) and so make an article for the Bell!! I was very glad, then, that the correspondence had taken place, and that I had thereby something tolerably appropriate wherewith to appease Mr. Quincy. [It appeared in the Liberty Bell for 1851.]

I send you a Sermon, just out, by Rev. Nathaniel Hall, a brother of Dr. H., and with which you will fully sympathize, I know. It makes ~~the~~ truth and duty so plain, that the reader is surprised with him that there should be any occasion, any necessity, for stating it. But, strange to say, there exists, this hour, in this land, the most urgent and crying necessity for it. You can have no idea of the reckless and brazen manner in which priest and politician now unite to cast ridicule & scorn upon the "higher Law" of God, & demand obedience to the Fugitive Slave Law, as to the Law of the Land. I have no time left to speak of that monster, Orville Dewey. I should like to have you see a brief report of his recent lecture, in a paper I am sending to Mr. Estlin, and to have Mr. E. read to you what I have written to him about Dr. Dewey.

And now I must perforce close. With my respects to your Mother, and kindest regard to Mr. Thomas and to your brother Russell, I am

Most truly Yours

Samuel May, Jr

MS. B.1.6 v.4. p.18